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NEWS RELEASE

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AOC Director Announces New Chief of Finance for State Judicial Branch

Tina Hansen Transitions to Special Consultant Position; Assistant Director Stephen Nash Named Successor

San Francisco—William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts, today announced that Christine M. Hansen has transitioned from director of finance of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to an executive consultant position with the AOC, working on special financial projects effective April 2, 2007.

Ms. Hansen will be succeeded by Stephen Nash, who has served as assistant director of finance since 2002. Mr. Nash began his new duties on April 2, 2007.

“Tina Hansen has made outstanding contributions to the state judicial branch since she joined the AOC in 2000,” said Chief Justice Ronald M. George, chair of the Judicial Council. “Tina was instrumental in implementing major budget reforms in the state courts that have led to more secure, predictable court funding and greater access to justice for Californians. While we regret that Tina is leaving as director of finance, we look forward to her contributions in her new consultant position.

“We are very pleased that Stephen Nash, the assistant director of finance, has accepted the appointment as the AOC’s new director of finance. Stephen’s proven experience and strong leadership skills assure that there will be a smooth transition to his new role,” the Chief Justice continued.

Stephen Nash to Oversee Fiscal Services

In his new position, Mr. Nash will serve as the chief financial officer for the state courts and will oversee branchwide fiscal services that include accounting, auditing, budget management and planning, and procurement and contract services.

“It is an honor to follow Tina Hansen, who accomplished so much,” Mr.

Nash stated. “I am thrilled to be taking on this new challenge, serving under the phenomenal leadership of Chief Justice Ron George, Administrative Director of the Courts Bill Vickrey, and Chief Deputy Director Ron Overholt, and working in concert with some of the brightest and most dynamic professionals in government today. I am proud to lead a very talented team in AOC’s Finance Division, made up of diligent individuals who are dedicated to ensuring first-rate support for the courts. In this new capacity, I very much look forward to working on financial matters with court leaders throughout the state, as well as in coordination with our colleagues in the executive and legislative branches.”

“While serving as assistant director for Budget Management in the AOC’s Finance Division for the past five years, Mr. Nash has made significant contributions to improving the judicial branch budgeting process and policy development,” noted Mr. Vickrey. “He has worked successfully with Tina and others to advocate for legislation that has strengthened and stabilized the financial structure of the judicial branch.”

In addition, Mr. Vickrey noted that Mr. Nash is highly regarded in California state government for his extensive knowledge of state fiscal policies and procedures and brings with him a wealth of experience. Before joining the AOC, Mr. Nash served as deputy director of administrative services for the California Youth Authority. He also worked at the Department of Finance and as a tax auditor with the Employment Development Department.

Court Leaders Comment

“The Judicial Council and the courts are very fortunate to have two dedicated public servants like Stephen Nash and Tina Hansen focusing their talents and leadership skills on judicial branch finances,” stated Court of Appeal Justice Richard D. Huffman, chair of the Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee. “The AOC is comprised of many capable, hard working professionals with diverse skills in law, research, education, technology, architecture, and finance. Stephen and Tina are both excellent examples of public service at its finest.”

“Due to Tina’s leadership and generosity in office, we would expect this transition to be seamless,” stated Presiding Judge Nancy Wieben Stock, chair of the Judicial Council’s Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee. “It has already worked out very well, and we look forward to having the benefit of both of them in crafting sound financial strategies that will continue enhance the public’s trust in our stewardship.”

Ms. Sharol Strickland, chair of the Judicial Council’s Court Executives Advisory Committee commented, “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Tina Hansen on numerous Judicial Council and AOC committees and special projects over the years. Her leadership, technical skills and problem solving abilities are truly remarkable. It has been a privilege to work with her, and I look forward to opportunities to continue to do so as she transitions to her new role as executive consultant to the Judicial Council. When Tina was on leave, Stephen truly stepped up to the plate and assumed his expanded leadership role and

responsibilities with a calm resolve that was impressive. Even with these increased responsibilities, Stephen remained responsive and accessible to the courts.”

Tina Hansen Takes New Consulting Position

Commenting on Ms. Hansen’s contributions, Mr. Vickrey stated, “When Tina joined the AOC as its chief financial officer in 2000, the state was entering into a severe financial crisis. Tina immediately took action to resolve critical budget shortfalls facing the courts by working with the executive branch to develop innovative and effective strategies to protect public access to essential court services.”

“Since that time, Tina’s leadership, tireless dedication and creative approaches have contributed to an impressive list of accomplishments,” Mr. Vickrey stated. “Due to Tina’s talents and strong leadership, the financial condition of the judicial branch is now stable and strong, enabling the courts to continue to provide essential court services for Californians. There can be no better legacy than this.”

“I am thankful to the Chief Justice and William Vickrey for their incredible vision and for giving me the opportunity to be part of this important time in the development of our branch,” Ms. Hansen stated. “In my new role as an executive consultant, I will be working part-time on special projects that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our fine court system. I look forward to continuing to work with the court leadership, their staff, and our various partners.”

Ms. Hansen’s many achievements include developing financial policies and procedures for the judicial branch; establishing an internal audit program for the courts; launching a uniform, statewide accounting system; establishing a centralized treasury to maximize court funds; and creating a statewide accounting office to support the trial courts.

Ms. Hansen was instrumental in implementing a new court budget process using the State Appropriations Limit—an important step in providing stable and predictable funding for the trial courts. She also played a key role in the establishment of the uniform civil fee structure, undesignated fees compromise, and security standards for the trial courts.

Ms. Hansen has served the state of California for more than 30 years. Before joining the AOC, she was deputy secretary of the Trade and Commerce Agency for 10 years. In that position, she was responsible for all administrative functions, including finance, business services, human resources, and information services. Before that, she served as chief of fiscal and staff services for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.